

What is claimed is:

1. A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell assembly having one or more fuel cells and adapted to include one or more direct internal forming passages and one or more indirect internal reforming passages for reforming a fuel supply; and

a coupling assembly for selectively and adjustably controlling the coupling of first and second fuel supply portions to the respective one or more indirect internally reforming passages and one or more direct internally reforming passages.

2. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater for heating supply fuel; and

said coupling assembly receives said heated supply fuel from said heater and segments said heated supply fuel into said first and second fuel supply portions.

3. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater; and
said coupling assembly receives a supply fuel, segments said supply fuel into said first and second fuel supply portions and carries said second fuel supply portion through said heater prior to said second fuel supply portion being coupled to said one or more indirect internal reforming passages.

4. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said coupling assembly combines said second fuel supply portion with the stream from said one or more indirect internal reforming passages to form a combined

stream and couples the combined stream to the one or more direct internal reforming passages.

5. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 4, wherein:

said coupling assembly comprises: a junction point which receives fuel
5 supply and segments said fuel supply into said first and second fuel supply portions; a
combiner; a first conduit for carrying said first fuel supply portion to said one or more
indirect internal reforming passages; a second conduit for carrying said second fuel
supply portion to said combiner; the stream from said one or more indirect internal
reforming passages being coupled to said combiner; and the combined stream of said
10 combiner being coupled to said one or more direct internal reforming passages.

6. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

said coupling assembly further comprises: a first valve in said first conduit
for adjusting the first fuel supply portion; and a second valve in said second conduit for
adjusting the second fuel supply portion.

15 7. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater which precedes said
junction point and heats said fuel supply prior to said fuel supply being received in said
junction point.

8. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 7, wherein:

20 said heater heats said fuel supply with cathode exhaust gas from said one
or more fuel cells; and

said fuel cell system further comprises: a mixer for mixing anode exhaust
gas from said one or more fuel cells with an oxidant supply; an oxidizer for receiving the

stream from said mixer, said oxidizer output serving as the cathode inlet gas for said one or more fuel cells.

9. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

5 said fuel cell system further comprises a heater which follows said
junction point and heats said first fuel supply portion before said first fuel supply portion
is carried to said one or more indirect internal reforming passages.

10. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 9, wherein:

 said heater heats said fuel supply with cathode exhaust gas from said one
or more fuel cells; and

10 said fuel cell system further comprises: a mixer for mixing anode exhaust
gas from said one or more fuel cells with an oxidant supply; an oxidizer for receiving the
stream from said mixer, said oxidizer output serving as the cathode inlet gas for said one
or more fuel cells.

15